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PATENT, TRADEMARK
AND COPYRIGHT LAW

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Date: December 27, 2002

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

Facsimile Number: (703) 872-9318

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

To: Examiner D. Lee
Group Art Unit 2876, USPTO

From: Mr. Daniel J. Stanger
MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.

Re: USSN 09/774,723
Attorney Docket No.: H-961

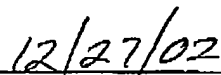
CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the following listed documents are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below:

Transmittal Letter;
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT.



Daniel J. Stanger
Reg. No. 32,846



Date

Total Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 13

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FORM PTO-1083

PATENT

Case Docket No. H-961

In RE application of T. HIROSE et al

Serial No.: 09/774,723

Group Art Unit: 2876

Filed: February 1, 2001

Examiner: D. Lee

For: POLISHING PAD SURFACE CONDITION EVALUATION METHOD AND AN
APPARATUS THEREOF AND A METHOD OF PRODUCING A
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a verified statement previously submitted.
- ☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.
- ☒ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(COL. 1)		(COL. 2)		(COL. 3)
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For		Present Extra
Total	= 25	Minus	** 25	=	0
Indep.	= 4	Minus	*** 7	=	0
<input type="checkbox"/> First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims					

SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Additional Fee
x 9	\$
x 42	\$
+ 140	\$
Total	\$

OR

OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Additional Fee
x 18	\$ 0
x 84	\$ 0
+ 280	\$ 0
Total	\$ 0

OR

- * If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write '0' in Col. 3.
- ** If the 'Highest Number Previously Paid For' IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write '20' in this space.
- *** If the 'Highest Number Previously Paid For' IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write '3' in this space.
- The 'Highest Number Previously Paid For' (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior Amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-1417 in the amount of \$ _____.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ is attached in payment of: _____.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.
- ☒ Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims.
- ☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.
- ☒ Any Extension of Time fees that are necessary, which are hereby requested if necessary.

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By:

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Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date: December 27, 2002

#6a
5/15/03
amr

H-961

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

T. HIROSE et al

Serial No. 09/774,723

Group Art Unit: 2876

Filed: February 1, 2001

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For: POLISHING PAD SURFACE CONDITION EVALUATION METHOD AND AN
APPARATUS THEREOF AND A METHOD OF PRODUCING A
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 27, 2002

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please amend the above
application as set forth below.

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IN THE CLAIMS

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Rewrite claims 3, 9-11, 14, 16 and 20-23 as follows:

a

3. (Amended) A method for evaluating polishing pad
surface conditions as described in claim 5, wherein removal of
polishing fluid adhered to said polishing pad surface is
performed by flowing gas onto said polishing pad surface.